

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00355 231853Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3696

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

INFO/RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 4710

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 0355

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: UK VIEWS ON TACTICS PAPER

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: VIENNA 566

SUMMARY: UK DELOFF APPROACHED MISSION AND CERTAIN OTHER DELEGATIONS ON JANUARY 23 TO OUTLINE BRITISH VIEWS ON ALLIED TACTICS PAPER (VIENNA 401). HE CONSIDERED IT POSSIBLE THAT THE COUNCIL AT JANUARY 25 MORNING MEETING MIGHT HAVE TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE ISSUES IN THIS PAPER, WHICH UK CONSIDERED WENT BEYOND BASIC ALLIED POSITION. MISSION OFFICER TOOK LINE THAT UK POINTS WERE TACTICAL AND THAT PAPER WAS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF C-M(73)83. ACTION REQUESTED: UK DEL ACTIVITIES HERE MAY SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 00355 231853Z

STIMULATE NAC DEBATE ON TACTICS, UNLESS AD HOC GROUP REACHES FULL AGREEMENT ON PAPER BEFOREHAND. TO PREPARE FOR NAC, MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE EARLIEST POSSIBLE REPORTS ON AD HOC GROUP DISCUSSIONS. ALSO REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO US STATE 12411.

END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE REQUEST OF HIS AMBASSADOR, WHO WANTED AN "INFORMED" NAC DISCUSSION ON JANUARY 25, UK DELOFF (SMITH) CALLED ON MISSION OFFICER ON JANUARY 23 TO GIVE UK VIEWS ON THE ALLIED TACTICS PAPER. MISSION OFFICER COMMENTED AT OUTSET THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO ENGAGE IN DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE TACTICS PAPER WHILE THE AD HOC GROUP HAD IT UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, THE QUESTION OF TACTICS WAS CLEARLY THE PRESERVE OF ALLIED NEGOTIATORS IN VIENNA.

2. SMITH REPLIED THAT, BASED ON REPORTS FROM VIENNA, HE DOUBTED THE AHG WOULD REACH AGREEMENT ON SOME OF THE ISSUES IN THE TACTICS PAPER. HE BELIEVED IT LIKELY THAT, SINCE THE TACTICS PAPER INCLUDED ISSUES, WHICH, IN THE UK VIEW, WENT BEYOND THE SUBSTANTIVE POSITION OUTLINED IN C-M(73)83, THE COUNCIL WOULD NEED TO CONSIDER CERTAIN POINTS ON JANUARY 25. SMITH ADDED THAT IN PREPARATION FOR THIS COUNCIL DISCUSSION, HE WAS CONVEYING UK VIEWS TO OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS. HE PREDICTED THAT SOME OTHER PERMREPS WOULD ALSO BE STRUCK BY WHAT THEIR COLLEAGUES HAD AGREED TO IN THE AHG ON JANUARY 17.

3. SMITH WENT OVER SAME POINTS WHICH ROSE MADE TO U.S. REP ON JANUARY 22 (REFTEL) BUT WITH MORE EMPHASIS ON POINTS OF DIVERGENCE WITH C-M(73)83. ON PARA 5, HE BELIEVED THAT INCLUSION OF "WITHIN A FIXED PERIOD OF TIME" WENT BEYOND THE AGREED ALLIANCE POSITION. IN ANY CASE, UK BELIEVED THAT ALLIES SHOULD ACCEPT SUCH A PHRASE ONLY IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS NOT ONLY U.S. AND SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I BUT ALSO SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT IN PHASE I. MISSION OFFICER REPLIED THAT THE USE OF THIS PHRASE WAS CONSISTENT WITH C-M(73)83, SINCE IT WAS DESIGNED TO AVOID INCLUSION OF NON-U.S. NATO FORCES IN THE FIRST PHASE. SMITH AGREED THAT ONE COULD MAKE A CASE THAT THIS IS A TACTICAL POINT.

4. HE HAD MORE SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE DIFFICULTIES WITH PARA 6. UK OBJECTED TO HE LAST SENTENCE IN THIS PARAGRAPH, WHICH  
SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 00355 231853Z

CARRIED THE IMPLICATION THAT UK FORCES MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN PHASE II REDUCTIONS, AN IMPLICATION WHICH LONDON COULD NOT ACCEPT AT THIS STAGE AND WHICH WOULD INVITE SOVIET QUERIES ABOUT UK FORCES. MISSION OFFICER CONSIDERED THS SENTENCE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH PARA 34, C-M(73)83 AND RECALLED THAT OTHER ALLIES HAD PRESSED THE U.S. FOR INCLUSION OF PHRASE CALLING FOR "FOCUS ON REDUCTIONS OF NON-U.S. NATO FORCES" IN SECOND PHASE.

5. SMITH SAID THAT LONDON ALSO HAD SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE DIFFICULTIES WITH PARA 7, WHICH HINTS STRONGLY THAT ALLIES MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE WILLING TO CONSIDER NUCLEAR AND AIR FORCES IN MBFR, EVEN THOUGH C-M(73)83 DOES NOT EVEN MENTION NUCLUEAR AND AIR ASPECTS. ANALYSIS OF THIS QUESTION HAD NOT EVEN GOT UNDER-

WAY IN NATO. THEREFORE, HE BELIEVED THAT THIS PARAGRAPH SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND STATING THAT THE ALLIES WERE NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS INCLUSION OF NUCLEAR AND AIR ELEMENTS.

6. COMMENT. UK DEL IS PREPARING THE GROUND HERE, IN CASE LONDON DECIDES TO THROW THESE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY QUESTION OF FIXED TIME PERIOD BETWEEN PHASES, INTO NAC. IN CONTACTS WITH DELEGATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL STAFF PRIOR TO NAC, WE WILL SUGGEST THAT COUNCIL GIVE AD HOC GROUP ENOUGH TIME TO REACH AGREEMENT ON TACTICS PAPER IN VIENNA. IF THE AHG IS UNABLE TO RESOLVE A SPECIFIC ISSUE, THEN THE COUNCIL CAN EXAMINE THAT ISSUE ON ITS MERITS RATHER THAN DISCUSSING OVERALL TACTICS. WE WOULD ALSO PLAN TO ARGUE ALONG LINES OF COMMENTS ABOVE THAT PAPER IS CONCERNED WITH TACTIS AND FALLS WITHIN BOUNDS OF C-M(73)83. IN THIS CONNECTION, AD HOC GROUP AGREEMENT BY JANUARY 25 ON HANDLING SOVIET NUCLEAR AND AIR PROPOSALS (PARA 7) WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL, SINCE UK ARGUMENT THAT TACTICS PAPER GOES BEYOND C-M(73)83 IS STRONGEST ON THIS POINT. END COMMENT.

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